

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VIENTI 04946 121755Z

44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 AID-20 IO-13 SSO-00

INRE-00 DPW-01 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIE-00 RSR-01 AF-10 /148 W

----- 066445

O R 121130Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4922

INFO WHITE HOUSE

CIA

DIA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC

CINCPACAF

CINCPACFLT

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

CDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN

USDEL JEC PARIS

SECDEF

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 4946

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R T E X T

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PGOV, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA, US, VN, XC

SUBJ: THE LAO CEASEFIRE - 20TH WEEK

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 VIENTI 04946 121755Z

REF: VIENTIANE 4802

## I. MILITARY SITUATION

1. COMBAT ACTIVITY DURING 20TH WEEK DROPPED TO LOWEST LEVEL SINCE CEASEFIRE, WITH ONLY 7 INCIDENTS REPORTED (PRELIMINARY), COMPARED TO 9 DURING PREVIOUS WEEK. ALL FIGHTING OCCURRED IN SOUTH LAOS. RLAF FLEW 6 COMBAT SORTIES (ALL IN MR-III), COMPARED TO 4 DURING PREVIOUS WEEK.

2. IN FAR NORTHERN PART OF MR-III, SPORADIC HARASSMENT OF REFUGEE POPULATION CONTINUED AND ONE OUTPOST NEAR PHA HOM WAS LOST TO MINOR ENEMY ATTACK. ONLY OTHER NOTABLE CLASH OCCURRED AS WEEK ENDED, WHEN ENEMY SHELLED AND ATTACKED TWO POSITIONS WELL EAST OF KENGKOK. ELSEWHERE, THERE WERE ONLY MINOR PATROL CLASHES AND SHELLINGS. TEN ADDITIONAL PL RALLIERS WERE EXTRACTED FROM EASTERN BOLOVENS PLATEAU AND, IN NORTH LAOS, TWO PL SOLDIERS RALLIED NEAR SALA PHOU KHOUN.

## II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. DESPITE INDICATIONS DURING PREVIOUS WEEK THAT LAO INTERNAL TALKS HAD REACHED AN IMPASSE AND WOULD BE RECESSED, THE TALKS BETWEEN CHIEF RLG AND LPF NEGOTIATORS PHENG AND PHOUMI CONTINUED DURING 20TH WEEK OF CEASEFIRE. IN ADDITION, PHOUMI MET WITH PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA JULY 6, AND ON JULY 7 LPF PERMREP SOTH PHETRASY LEFT FOR SAM NEUA ON CONSULTATIONS, THEREBY AROUSING A FLURRY OF OPTIMISM OVER A POSSIBLE BREAKTHROUGH IN TALKS. PHENG DISCOUNTED SUCH OPTIMISM WHEN, AT JULY 10 PRESS CONFERENCE, HE CRITICIZED LPF RIGIDITY AND SAID IF RLG WERE TO ACCEPT LPF DEMANDS, ESPECIALLY ON STATIONING LPF FORCES IN VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG, IT WOULD "HANG ITSELF." PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA CONTINUES TO MANIFEST IMPATIENCE WITH THE LANGUOROUS PACE OF NEGOTIATIONS AND APPEARS WILLING TO EXERCISE HIS PREROGATIVES TO KEEP THINGS MOVING AHEAD. THIS MIGHT WELL EXPLAIN OPTIMISM EXPRESSED BY LPF IN AFTERMATH OF PHOUMI'S CONVERSATION WITH SOUVANNA

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 VIENTI 04946 121755Z

ON JULY 7.

2. ON JULY 9, SOUVANNA RECEIVED AN INVITATION FROM THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT TO SEND A DELEGATION TO THE UNALIGNED NATIONS CONFERENCE, WHICH IS TO BE HELD IN ALGIERS DURING SEPTEMBER. SOUVANNA ACCEPTED, CONDITIONAL UPON HIS STILL BEING PRIME MINISTER. INVITATION HELPS TO UNDERSCORE RLG'S STATUS IN WORLD COMMUNITY AS BONAFIDE

NEUTRAL NATION, AS WELL AS SOUVANNA'S POSITION AS ONE  
OF THE FEW REMAINING NEUTRALIST STATESMEN WHOSE  
CREDENTIALS DATE BACK TO THE 1950'S.  
DEAN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973VIENTI04946  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS DEAN  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** VIENTIANE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730736/aaaabaon.tel  
**Line Count:** 119  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 VIENTIANE 4802  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 SEP 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20-Sep-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <23-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THE LAO CEASEFIRE - 20TH WEEK SECRET  
**TAGS:** MOPS, PGOV, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA, US, VN, XC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005